

way to sell their coffee. Millions of small farmers are cheated out of their fair share of income as they receive as little as 1 percent of the final retail price of their coffee. This meager price is nowhere near enough to support their families and their communities. Instead of having enough money to spend on food, education and health care, coffee farmers are being thrust into a cycle of debt and poverty. The situation is so bad that some farmers have turned to producing cocaine and opium to support their families while others have given up in despair and even committed suicide.

As a major purchaser of coffee, the United States has a responsibility to ensure that small coffee farmers are being adequately compensated for their work. And here in Congress we should do our part to ensure that we pay a fair price for the coffee that is purchased for our own use. If companies like Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts can successfully offer fair trade coffee in their stores, there is absolutely no reason why the federal government cannot do so as well. While fair trade coffee is already served in some of the House of Representatives cafeterias we need to do more to send a signal to the rest of the country.

The fair trade economic model is a unique way of providing small farmers with a living wage that has been proven to work. Coffee is fair trade certified when: (1) Coffee importers agree to purchase from small farmers included on the international trade register; (2) farmers are guaranteed a minimum "fair trade price" of \$1.26 per pound for their coffee; (3) coffee importers provide a certain amount of credit to farmers against future sales to help the farmers stay out of debt to middlemen; (4) importers and roasters agree to develop long term relationships with producer groups that cut out the coffee middlemen.

Small farmers are certified to be producing fair trade coffee if they are organized into democratic cooperatives and use environmentally friendly and sustainable growing methods.

The development of these criteria has made the fair trade economic model a viable solution to the coffee crisis. Both major coffee trade associations, the National Coffee Association of U.S.A. and the Specialty Coffee Association of America have recognized this fact. So have numerous universities around our nation. UC Berkeley, Harvard and many others have already enacted policies promoting the sale of fair trade coffee on their campuses. It is time that Congress recognized that fair trade coffee is one step in solving the humanitarian emergency caused by the coffee crisis.

By providing \$1.26 per pound for coffee, fair trade certification provides small farmers with enough money to sustain their families and be able to contribute to their communities. Furthermore, by cutting out the middlemen, the price of fair trade coffee for consumers is the same as any other specialty brand of coffee. Besides being comparable in cost to other specialty coffee it is also comparable in taste. Fair trade coffees from all over the world have won awards such as Food & Wine Magazine's "Best Coffee" award and 1st place in the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Board's Blind Coffee Tasting for 2002 competition. With comparable cost and taste compared to other coffee, it is hard to justify not purchasing fair trade coffee. Seeing how there is more than 165 million pounds of fair trade coffee being

produced and only 35 million pounds being sold, there is plenty of it. All that needs to be done is to create an awareness of the benefits of fair trade coffee among the public and this resolution does exactly that.

This resolution sends an important message to the American public about the willingness of our Federal Government to aid poverty stricken farmers in other countries. We set an example for the rest of the country to follow by recommending that the Legislative Branch and the Executive Agencies make fair trade coffee available for all events and at all our government food service venues. Taking this small step on our part can go a long way toward helping thousands of small coffee farmers around the world. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this resolution.

IRAQ'S WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on April 8, 2003, the Congressional Liaison Office of the United States Marine Corps, came to my office to notify me of the death of First Sergeant Edward Smith, age 38, who was killed in the line of duty while participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On April 4, 2003, 1st Sgt. Smith was shot in the head while engaging with enemy forces in Iraq. He died on April 5, 2003 in Doha, Qatar as a result of his wounds.

My colleagues, Sgt. Edward Smith was not only a soldier, but a father, husband and son. According to the Defense Department, Smith was the ninth soldier from the Illinois area to die in Iraq. Sergeant Smith, a career soldier, was nearing the end of a 20-year military career and was anticipating retirement when he sustained his fatal wound. Born and raised in Chicago, Edward Smith graduated from CVS High School, moved to Anaheim, California in the 1980s, where he married and raised a family. He leaves behind a wife and two sons in California and a mom and dad and friends in the Chicago area. All of our thoughts and prayers are with Sergeant Smith's family.

Mr. Speaker, as this House begins a month-long district work period, we are still waiting for the answer to the question: Where are the weapons of mass destruction? Where are the weapons for which 1st Sergeant Edward Smith, and so many others, gave their lives?

With each passing day, the American people and I, continue to wait.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY CLARENCE PARKS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I'm writing to express my condolences on the recent demise of the late Jerry Clarence Parks. Indeed, words are so inadequate at this time to personify my sadness. However, I hope that my humble prayers would somehow assuage the pain that now burdens the Parks family.

Indeed, the passing away of a good and faithful steward who toiled and sacrificed his life for countless people and this grateful community provides us with the sobering thought of the dignity of the human spirit and the fragility of life. Amidst the sorrows, however, let us remind ourselves that it is precisely during times like this that we must find the hope and assurance in Christ's words when He promised us: "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in me, even if he dies, shall live." For those of us bonded together in the Christian Faith, we firmly believe that Jerry's life has not ended; it merely changed for the better.

I pray that the Parks family anchors itself on these words. And while we remember Jerry Parks, his loyalty and commitment to the members of the Bible Baptist Church, the City of Miami Retired Fire and Police Association and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, let us thank God for having let him grace our lives with the full measure of his love and devotion to the ideals of Christian stewardship and caring for the less fortunate members of our society.

May God comfort Beverly Parks, his daughter and his family and loved ones with the blessed assurance of His love and peace in this period of bereavement.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2815, LEGISLATION EXPANDING AND MAKING PERMANENT THE EXPENSING OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION COSTS

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I introduced bipartisan tax legislation with the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. WELLER, and the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Mrs. JOHNSON, to expand and make permanent the expensing of environmental remediation costs of America's brownfields.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines brownfields as abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion, redevelopment or reuse is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Estimates of the number of brownfield sites range from 500,000 to a million. In general, these sites face a paradox: they are generally not eligible for remediation funding under the Superfund program because they pose a relatively low public health risk while, at the same time, developers may avoid them because of significant cleanup costs thereby stalling economic development.

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 included a tax incentive to address this concern and help spur the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields in distressed urban and rural areas. Under the brownfields tax incentive, environmental cleanup costs are fully deductible in the year they are incurred by the developer, rather than having to be capitalized. This incentive has helped to bring thousands of abandoned and under-used industrial sites back into productive use, providing a foundation for neighborhood revitalization, job creation, and the restoration of hope in our nation's cities and distressed rural areas.